

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USUN NEW YORK 2535

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC, PFOR, IT, CY, TU, GR

SUBJECT: EC-9 APPROACH ON CYPRUS

REF: SECTO 08103

1. THE ITALIAN POLITICAL DIRECTOR, AMBASSADOR PLAJA GAVE DCM
RUN DOWN AUGUST 4 ON EC POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN HELSINKI. THE
HIGHLIGHTS WILL BE COVERED IN THIS AND OTHER TELEGRAMS. ON
THE SUBJECT OF CYPRUS THE EC-9 TRIED IN HELSINKI TO DEVELOP
COMMON LINES OF APPROACH IN ORDER THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE EC
WOULD SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE IN DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM IN THE
KEY CAPITALS. THE NINE ARE ALL CONCERNED THAT NO MOVEMENT HAS
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BEEN POSSIBLE ON CYPRUS BECAUSE OF THE PRECONDITIONS WHICH
THE PARTIES HAVE MAINTAINED. THE ITALIANS REPRESENTING THE

NINE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM IN HELSINKI WITH MAKARIOS, CARAMANLIS, DEMIREL AND WALDHEIM TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES COULD WORK OUT A "PARALLEL APPROACH" (TO THAT OF THE UN) IN ORDER TO OPEN UP POSSIBILITIES OF NEGOTIATING.

2. THE ITALIANS MET WITH MAKARIOS WHO SAID THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN A POSSIBLE PARALLEL APPROACH IF IT COULD BE DONE QUIETLY AND NOT INTERFERE WITH THE EFFORTS OF WALDHEIM TO NEGOTIATE UNDER UN AUSPICES. MAKARIOS EXPRESSED THE FEAT OF GREEK/CYPRIOTS THAT ANY MOVE BY NATO OR THE EC TO FIND A SOLUTION WAS REALLY AN EFFORT TO DE-INTERNATIONALIZE THE PROBLEM, I.E., TAKE IT OUT OF THE UN CONTEXT. PLAJA SAID THAT MAKARIOS SEEMED TO BE THE MOST INTERESTED OF THE PRINCIPALS. MAKARIOS SAID THAT HE HAD MADE CONCESSIONS IN ACCEPTING THE IDEA OF A FEDERATION WHICH WILL LIMIT THE POWER OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO PLAJA, MAKARIOS GAVE THE ITALIANS THE IMPRESSION THAT HE MIGHT MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS IF HE COULD GET HIS REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE AMOUNT OF TERRITORY THAT THE TURKISH/CYPRIOTS WILL HAVE AND SOME CONCESSIONS ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

3. CARAMANLIS WAS THE MOST PESSIMISTIC OF THE LEADERS WITH WHOM THE ITALIANS TALKED. HE DID NOT SEEM UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE DESIRE OF THE EC-9 TO BE HELPFUL BUT INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH HOPE FOR PROGRESS UNLESS OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD EXERT PRESSURE ON THE TURKS TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH.

4. THE MEETING WITH DEMIREL DID NOT GO WELL. THE TURK TOOK A VERY HARD LINE WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY PLAJA AS "EMOTIONALLY NATIONALISTIC". AS PLAJA COMMENTED, THE UNITED STATES HAS UNDOUBTABLY HEARD THE DEMIREL COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ARMS EMBARGO. DEMIREL COMPLAINED THAT NEITHER HIS NOR ANY SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT IN ANKARA COULD CAVE IN TO SUCH PRESSURE. HE REMARKED THAT AFTER YEARS OF FAITHFUL COOPERATION TURKEY HAD BEEN HURT AND PLACED IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION AS IT HAS A COMMON FRONTIER WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE REFUSED TO GIVE ANY INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE EC INITIATIVE BUT SUGGESTED THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE MUCH SIMPLIFIED IF THE EMBARGO WERE LIFTED.

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5. THE ITALIANS FOUND WALDHEIM ANXIOUS THAT THE EC-9 INITIATIVE SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH HIS ACTIVITIES BUT PLAJA REMARKED THAT HIS CONCERN SEEMED TO BE MORE PERSONAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE. IN CONCLUSION POLITICAL DIRECTOR SAID THAT ITALIANS WOULD NOT PERSIST FURTHER WITH THIS MATTER NOW BUT FOLLOW EVENTS CLOSELY IN NICOSIA, ANKARA, ATHENS AND THE UN.
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